Circular No. 34/10/10

Subject: Design Mix Concrete

During inspection of works of many organisations, it has been observed that provisions of IS 456:2000 are neither being followed for designing the concrete mix nor for acceptance criteria. Instances of acceptance of concrete on basis of false certification and without actually testing the cubes for 28 days strength have also been observed. The following deficiencies are brought to the notice of all organisations for immediate corrective action:

1. Minimum cement content, maximum water cement ratio and minimum grade of concrete for different exposures are not adopted as per the details given in Table 5 of above code.
2. Value of standard deviation is not being established on the basis of results of 30 samples as provided in Table 11 of the above code even for works where more than 30 samples have been tested.
3. For acceptance criteria mean of a group of 4 non overlapping consecutive test results is not being calculated.
4. The samples where individual variations are more than ± 15% of average of three specimens are not declared invalid as per the provisions of clause 15.4 of the Code.
5. The concrete is being declared meeting the acceptance criteria which is not in conformity of codal provisions.

Most of the organisations are not even aware about the amendment No. 3 of 2007 modifying clause 15.1.1 of IS 456:2000. All organisations are directed to ensure that provisions of IS 456:2000 read with amendment No. 3 should be followed scrupulously for cement concrete and reinforced cement concrete. Non compliance of the provisions shall be viewed seriously.

(V.K. Gupta)
Chief Technical Examiner

All CVOs